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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P48448PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL00/00037	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/01/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 19/01/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E21B19/16		
Applicant WELL ENGINEERING PARTNERS B.V. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18/08/2000	Date of completion of this report 04.05.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Ott, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7429 

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International application No. PCT/NL00/00037

1. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-25 with telefax of 16/04/2001

Drawings, sheets:

1/1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: EN , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☒ the claims, Nos.: 26-30

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☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-25
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-25
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-25
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

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EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-0396204

POINT V

V-1. D1 discloses a method for inserting a tube (3) into a borehole of a bored well in the ground, comprising successively adding a straight tube part (4) (see fig.1) to a proximal end of the tube (3) while the tube (3) reaches into the borehole (col.8, l.30-33), and subsequently inserting the tube further into the borehole (claim 1, col.9, l.12-13) wherein the addition of the tube part is carried out by means of welding (claim 1, col. 9, l.5-11) and wherein after the addition of a tube part (4), a tool ((1) and (54), see also col.8, l.7- 14), in an area where the tube part (4) is welded to the tube (3), is operated by a structure (6) extending via the proximal end (see fig.1) to the area where the added tube part (4) is welded to the tube (3). The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the disclosure of claim 1 in that said tool performs a reaming operation in the area where the added tube part is welded to the tube, for making an inner wall surface of the tube smoother.

This difference is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the available prior art and the subject-matter of claim 1 does therefore meet the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability in the sense of Art. 33 PCT.

V-2. D1 discloses an installation for inserting a tube into a borehole of a bored well in the ground (col.8, l.30-33), comprising a well head (col.6, l.29), means for inserting a tube (3) into the well head, and means (2) for adding a tube part (4) to a tube (3) extending into the well head, wherein the means (2) for adding a tube part (4) to a tube (3) extending into the well head are designed as a welding device (claim 1, col.9, l.5-11), further comprising a tool ((1) and (54), see also col.8, l.7-14, for performing operations in an area where the added tube part (4) is welded to the tube (3) and an elongate operating structure (6) for operating said tool ((1), (54)) via the proximal end (see fig.1) in the area where the added tube part (4) is welded to the tube (3).

The subject-matter of claim 15 differs from the disclosure of D1 in that said tool is a reamer for reaming an inner wall surface of said tube in the area where the added tube part is welded to the tube.

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This difference is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the available prior art and the subject-matter of claim 15 does therefore meet the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability in the sense of Art. 33 PCT.

V-3. The subject-matter of claims 2-14 and 16-25 meets the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability in the sense of Art.33 PCT as being dependent on claims the subject-matter of which meets said requirements.

POINT VII

The claims are not supported by the description (see for instance p.1, l.6, mentioning the introductory portion of the independent claims). The application does not meet the requirements of support by the description in the sense of Art.6 PCT.